

# Montana Wind & Transmission Working Group Wednesday February 6, 2013 Front Street Learning Center





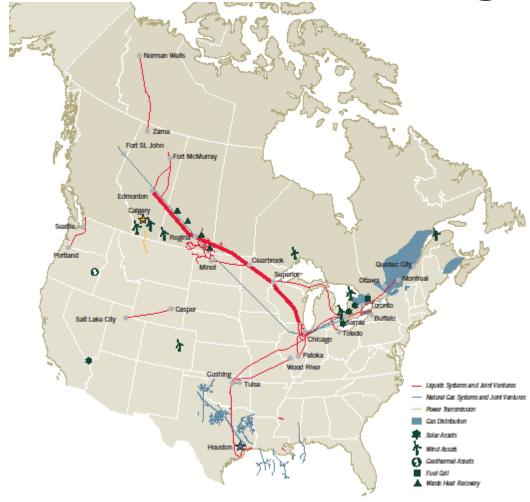
## Montana – Alberta Tie Line (MATL)

Project Update





### Intro to Enbridge







### Project History

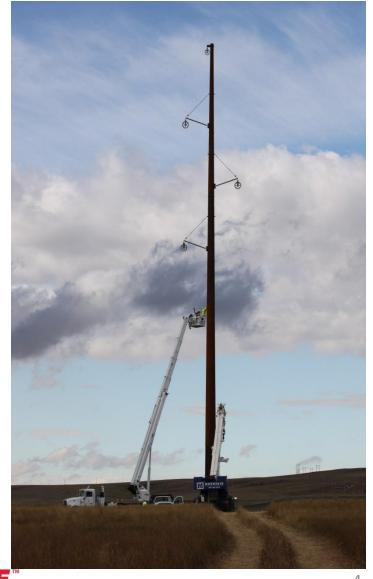
- MFSA Scoping in 2005
- First MFSA Application in 2006
- FEIS/ROD and Certificate in Oct. 2008
- Construction Begins in 2010
- Construction halts in 2011
- Enbridge purchases MATL Fall 2011
- Resume construction 2012
- Anticipate completion Feb 2013 in Montana and Q2 in Alberta





## Construction Update







#### Constraints









#### **Construction Process**











#### Foundations









Structure Assembly





#### Topping Out







• Wire Stringing











#### • Wire Stringing

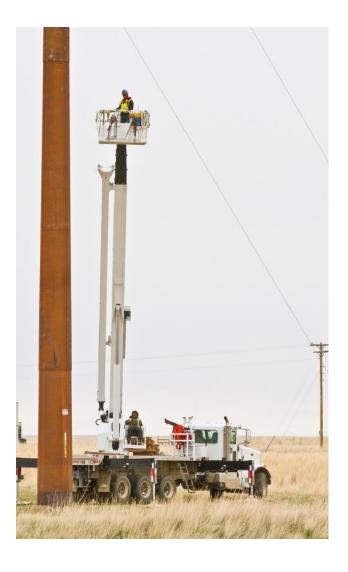






#### • Wire Clipping









#### OPGW and Sub-Stations









#### Reclamation







### Safety

Emergency Number: **888-780-8831** 





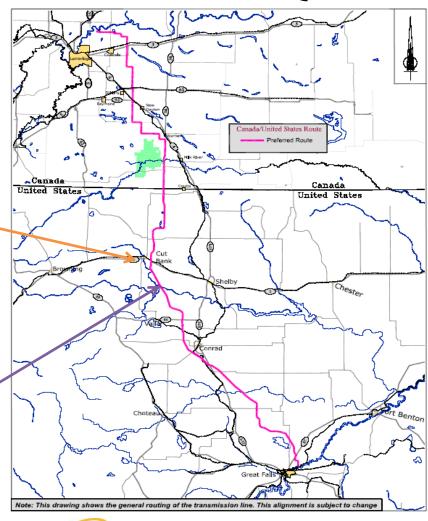




### Current Status (Montana)

General location of NaturEner wind farm under expansion

General location of wire stringing crews







### Current Status (Alberta)

- Gave AUC a typical design in 2010, then required a more detailed design for final approval in 2012.
- Received AUC decision on MATL final design in Alberta late last year.
- Construction resumed in January 2013.



#### Lessons Learned









### It's about Relationships

#### Hire the right people for the right job:

- Permitting
- Regulatory
- Land acquisition
- Construction
- 0&M
- External communications

These all have an external "face" and can impact your project.





### Setting Expectations

 Investment follows certainty...But haste makes waste.

- Premise: MATL could be built faster and cheaper than traditional utilities
- Reality: Permitting process takes time, money, expertise and patience – no matter what





#### Siting Process

- Working with an outdated statute
  - Process is expensive and unpredictable
  - Analysis criteria are unclear
- Actively manage the process
  - Lack of familiarity with process
  - Shortcuts added time and cost
  - Cover bases early and completely
  - Obtain agency buy-in early

Need to get industry on the same page and we need better coordination of MFSA and MEPA





### Land Acquisition

- 75/75 provision
- Right personalities
- Track comments/concerns
- Provide complete picture (access, construction, O&M)
- Keep landowners informed





#### Construction

- Get input on construction techniques early
- Parallel paths of ROW Acquisition and Construction
- Contractor needs skin in the game
- Work with DEQ





### Engagement

- Public participation requirements are exhaustive – and under challenge
  - Effective agency, tribal and stakeholder engagement is critical
  - Landowner buy-in is becoming a critical piece in successful infrastructure development
  - Not taking agency decisions as final answer anymore
  - Eminent Domain part of national dialogue





### Challenges Ahead

- Unpredictable market conditions
- Public Notification
- Landowner Compensation
- Tax Structures
- Eminent Domain





#### What's on the horizon?

- Completion of MATL construction and commissioning
- MATL Upgrade
- Additional connection(s) between MATL and the BPA line





Question & Answer



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